

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD COMPLETES 1978 MEETING

REF: (A) USUN 2064, (B) USUN 2037, (C) USUN 1999

1. SUMMARY: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD FINISHED SUCCESSFUL 1978 MEETING MAY 26 WITH APPROVAL OF NEW PROGRAM COMMITMENTS OF \$178.7 MILLION OVER COMING YEARS. IT ALSO "NOTED" \$75.5 MILLION IN PROJECTS FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IF DONORS CAME FORWARD, AND APPROVED A PROGRAM SUPPORT BUDGET OF \$29.3 MILLION. THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUDGET OF \$18.3 MILLION WAS ALSO APPROVED. THE INCOMING BOARD FOR 1978-79 VOTED MRS. SADAKO OGATA (JAPAN) AS CHAIRMAN. THE SESSIONS WERE APOLITICAL AS IS CUSTOMARY IN UNICEF. END SUMMARY.

2. UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ITS 1978 MEETING IN NEW YORK FROM MAY 15 TO 26. THE 30-NATION BOARD CONSIDERED PROGRAMS TO COVER FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS AHEAD AS WELL AS THE SUPPORTING BUDGETS. UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMBASSADOR FERDINAND OYONO (CAMEROON) THE BOARD HAS A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE SESSION WHICH REFLECTED IN GREAT MEASURE THE REALIZATION OF THE ROLE OF UNICEF AS A HUMAN UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE UN WITH CONSIDERABLE AND GROWING POTENTIAL FOR DIRECT DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE IN LDC'S. UNICEF'S EXPANDED PROGRAMS (UP BY \$100 MILLION IN COMMITMENTS FROM 1977) DEMONSTRATED BOARD'S APPRECIATION OF KEY ROLE UNICEF CAN PLAY IN THE 102 COUNTRIES WHERE IT OPERATES. THIS WAS SHOWN, IN PART, BY APPROVAL GIVEN DIRECTOR'S PROPOSAL TO EXPAND AID TO LOWER HALF OF GROUP II

COUNTRIES, SUCH AS INDIA AND PAKISTAN, AND OTHER FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY. UNICEF IS NOW BECOMING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO DEVELOPMENT WITH THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AT THE FAMILY AND VILLAGE LEVEL, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SUCH BASIC SERVICES AS PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, PRIMARY EDUCATION, NUTRITION SERVICES AND VILLAGE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY. U.S. INTERVENTION IN GENERAL DEBATE VERY WELL REVIEWED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR ITS POSITIVE URBAN CHARACTER INCLUDING QUOTATIONS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S TIMELY MAY 2 REMARKS ON CHILDREN AND HEALTH AIMS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. IN INITIAL PLENARY SESSION, MAY 15 TO 18, BOARD LISTENED TO REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HENRY R. LABOUISSSE (US) WHO SUGGESTED BOARD SET REVENUE TARGETS FOR EACH OF NEXT FIVE YEARS WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY BRING UNICEF 20 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE OR TO \$500 MILLION BY 1984 (\$350 MILLION IN CONSTANT DOLLARS WITH A CONSERVATIVE WORLD INFLATION RATE OF 6.5 PERCENT). INCREASE REPRESENTED GLOBAL TARGET AND DID NOT APPLY TO ANY INDIVIDUAL DONOR NOR IMPLY COMMITMENT BY ANY COUNTRY. RECOGNITION WAS ACCORDED TO FACT THAT MOST LEGISLATURES APPROPRIATED FUNDS ON ANNUAL BASIS AND HAD FINAL SAY ON FUNDING LEVELS. THE U.S. DELEGATION SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLE OF A CONTINUING INCREASE IN THE UNICEF PROGRAM WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO

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FIGURES AS A MEANS OF ENABLING UNICEF TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS FOLLOWING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD IN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE INCREASE IN UNICEF REVENUES LAST YEAR WAS IN THE MAGNITUDE OF 21 PERCENT, WITH REVENUES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS INCREASING BY AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 15 PERCENT ANNUALLY. NONETHELESS, SEVERAL COUNTRIES (NOTABLY GERMANS AND SWEDES) EXPRESSED CONCERN AS THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH TARGETS SET IN TERMS OF ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE. AS THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL, IT WAS AGREED THAT A GLOBAL REVENUE TARGET OF \$240 MILLION BE ACCEPTED FOR 1980 AND THAT ANNUAL TARGETS FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS BE LEFT FOR REVIEW BY THE BOARD IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTS, INTER ALIA, OF THE IYC, UNICEF'S CAPACITY TO ABSORB, AND WORK ON MAKING SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM TARGETS MORE SPECIFIC. THE BOARD ALSO REQUESTED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE HIS SEARCH FOR MODELS FOR LONG-TERM FINANCING, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATURE OF UNICEF'S WORK AND THE VOLUNTARY CHARACTER OF ALL

CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. MAJOR EMPHASIS DURING DEBATE WAS ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (AGENDA ITEM 3) AND U.S. INTERVENTION BY MRS. JEAN YOUNG WAS WELL RECEIVED. IYC COMMISSIONS ARE UNDERWAY OR IN PROCESS IN 108 COUNTRIES WITH MORE IN PROSPECT.

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5. SUBJECT OF CHILDREN OF THE URBAN POOR WAS CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD AND THERE WAS GENERAL APPROVAL OF NEED TO GIVE INCREASED ATTENTION TO URBAN AREAS AND FOR APPLICATION OF BASIC SERVICES APPROACH WITH DUE ADAPTATION TO URBAN ENVIRONMENT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SPECIAL MEETING ON CHILDREN IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH WILL PRECEDE THE REGULAR 1979 SESSION OF THE BOARD IN MEXICO CITY WILL INCLUDE THE PRESENTATION OF SEVERAL URBAN PROJECTS.

6. THE MEDIUM-TERM WORK PLAN WHICH CALLS FOR A ROLLING FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN WAS APPROVED WITH PROVISIONS FOR TAKING INTO ACCOUNT STATEMENTS VOICED BY SOME OF THE DELEGATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE QUESTION OF A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE REVENUE TARGET.

7. THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE, COMPRISING 18 NATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER MAJOR DONORS, CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT BUDGETS FOR PAST YEARS AS WELL AS THE 1979 BUDGETS. IT ALSO LOOKED AT THE WORK OF THE GREETING CARD OPERATIONS

OVER A SEVERAL YEAR SPAN AND ITS PAST AND FUTURE BUDGETS. FINALLY THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BUDGET FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD. SEVERAL MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE FOUR-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN (1978-81) AND THE EVENTUAL AGREEMENT WAS TO COVER ONLY THROUGH 1980 AND TO RECONSIDER THE SITUATION IN 1979 ON THE BASIS OF FURTHER EXPERIENCE. CANADA, SWEDEN, AND GERMANY FELT IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT A 20 PERCENT INCREASE FROM 1980 TO 1981 BUT DID ACCEPT THE NEAR EQUIVALENT OF A GLOBAL \$240 MILLION TARGET FOR 1980. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH PRESENT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE FOR 1980 WERE \$200 MILLION, HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE \$210 MILLION SO THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER \$240 MILLION AS NECESSARILY A 20 PERCENT TARGET INCREASE.

8. A SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR THE REVIEW OF UNICEF'S BUDGETS BY AN OUTSIDE, INDEPENDENT BODY, SUCH AS THE ACABQ WAS SHELVED PARTIALLY WHEN THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE BOARD ASK THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (JIU) OF THE UN TO LOOK AT NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET AND ALSO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF IMPLEMENTING THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL. THE U.S. SUGGESTED THAT DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD INCLUDE, FOR THE COMMITTEE, MEMBERS WITH MORE EXPERTISE IN BUDGETARY MATTERS AND THAT THE COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT OUTSIDE ENTANGLEMENTS. AT THE PLENARY THE BOARD DECIDED TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

9. THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON MAY 22 TOOK UP CONSIDERATION OF SOME \$179 MILLION WORTH OF COMMITMENTS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COMING YEARS. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MRS. SADATO OGATA OF JAPAN, THE DISCUSSIONS WERE GENERALLY UNEVENTFUL. THE U.S. DELEGATE (GRANT) IN THE OPENING DEBATE COMMENDED UNICEF EMPHASIS ON: A) HEALTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD; B) GUIDELINES FOR FIELD STAFF ON PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND FAMILY PLANNING THEMES

AS PART OF BASIC SERVICES; C) INCLUSION OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S NEEDS IN CURRENT EDUCATION STUDY. USDEL SUGGESTED REORIENTING PROGRAM COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION TO ENCOURAGE POLICY-ORIENTED DISCUSSION OF ISSUES AND OPTIONS, AND THROUGHOUT STRESSED NEED FOR FIELD-LEVEL COORDINATION WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE AGENCIES. SIMILAR THEMES EMPHASIZING ALSO GREATER NEED FOR EVALUATIVE REPORTING AND CLEAR IDENTIFICATION OF OBJECTIVES PICKED UP BY OTHER DELEGATES, INCLUDING SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, CANADA, FRG. CANADA STATED GENERAL APPROVAL OF PROGRAM BUT SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF MOST COUNTRY PROJECT DOCUMENTS FROM CONSIDERATION IN ORDER TO ENABLE COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH MAJOR POLICY ISSUES AND EXAMINE IN DEPTH A SAMPLING OF PROJECTS.

10. U.S. DEL, IN REVIEW OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION PROGRAMS, ANNOUNCED USG GRANT OF \$6.5 MILLION FROM \$20 MILLION SPECIAL LEBANON EMERGENCY ALLOCATION FOR PROPOSED "NOTED" PROJECT FOR REHABILITATION OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THIS WAS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY SECRETARIAT.

11. A NOTABLE FEATURE WAS RELATIVE PASSIVITY OF LDC DELEGATIONS (MANY ONLY REPRESENTED BY PERMANENT UN MISSION PERSONNEL), WHICH WERE

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CONSISTENTLY POSITIVE TOWARD OVERALL UNICEF
PROGRAM AND GENERALLY INTERVENED ONLY ON COUNTRY

OR REGIONAL MATTERS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THEM.
THIS GAVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS SOMETIMES REGRETTABLE
AURA OF "RICH MAN'S CLUB" DIALOGUE.

12. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AGREED ON THE NEED FOR
CHANGES IN THE DOCUMENTATION PROCESS, AND
SUGGESTIONS AS WELL AS MODIFICATIONS WILL BE
PRESENTED TO THE NEXT BOARD MEETING.

13. THE INCOMING BOARD FOR 1978/79 CONVENED
SHORTLY AFTER THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE 1978
EXECUTIVE BOARD HAD ADJOURNED. THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS
WERE ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION:

CHAIRMAN OF THE SADAKO OGATA (JAPAN);
CHAIRMAN, PROGRAMME COMMITTEE-MARCOS C. CANDAU (BRAZIL);
CHAIRMAN, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE-
PAAL BOG (NORWAY); THE FOUR VICE CHAIRMEN, IN ORDER,
ZAKI HASAN (PAKISTAN), BOGUSLAW KOZUSZNIK (POLAND),
SEBASTIAN CHALE (TANZANIA), AND SAMI I. GAMMOH
(JORDAN). DR. HASAN, IT WAS AGREED, INFORMALLY,
WOULD BECOME CHAIRMAN FOR 1979/80 EVEN THOUGH HE
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WILL NOT HAVE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRAM
COMMITTEE. THIS REPRESENTS AN EFFORT TO BREAK
THE PATTERN OF CHAIRMEN HAVING TO GO "THROUGH
THE CHAIRS". IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING WERE
CHOSEN MEMBERS OF THE JOINT UNICEF/WHO BOARD TO
WHICH ELECTION IS BY INDIVIDUAL RATHER THAN
COUNTRY: DR. GEORGE I. LYTHCOTT (US), DR. ZAKI
HASAN (PAKISTAN), REMIGIUS M. LINJEWILE (TANZANIA),
AND DRAGAN MATELJAK (YUGOSLAVIA).

14. THE DISCUSSION ON MEXICO'S INVITATION TO HOST
NEXT BOARD MEETING WAS BRIEF AND INCLUDED AFFIRMATIVE
STATEMENTS BY PHILIPPINES, PAKISTAN, MOROCCO,
CHILE, CUBA, AND U.S. PAKISTAN DELEGATE INDICATED
HOPE THAT MEMBER OF UNICEF SECRETARIAT MAKE TRIP
TO MEXICO WELL IN ADVANCE TO ASSURE ADEQUACY OF
LOGISTICS. U.S. DELEGATE, JAMES GRANT, IN
ACCEPTANCE REMARKS GAVE RECOGNITION TO ADVANTAGE
OF TWO TO THREE DAY SPECIAL MEETING ON SITUATION
OF CHILDREN IN LATIN AMERICA SCHEDULED TO PRECEED
BOARD MEETING BUT AT SAME TIME CAUTIONED THAT
MEETING IN AREAS OTHER THAN HEADQUARTERS SHOULD
CONTINUE TO BE THE EXCEPTION RATHER THAN A
PRACTICE.

15. FINAL ACTION OF UNICEF PLENARY WAS DECISION

THAT UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD SEND MESSAGE TO THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT. (TEXT INCLUDED IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.)

16. COMMENT: UNICEF IS AT CRUCIAL POINT IN ITS INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. FUTURE COURSE WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPEND MUCH ON SUCCESS OF IYC, THE NEXT YEAR OR SO OF UNICEF OPERATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PRIORITY ACCORDED TO ADDRESS OF BASIC NEEDS. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ON THE ONE HAND U.S. IS THE LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR, BOTH TO UNICEF FOR 1978 (20 PERCENT) AND TO THE IYC, A FACT WHICH GIVES US LEVERAGE IN UNICEF'S FUTURE. OTHER NATIONS AT PRESENT MEETING EXPRESSED HOPE WE WILL TAKE A LEADING ROLE DURING THIS FORMATIVE PERIOD. IN ADDITION, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LABOUISSSE HAS SAID POSITIVELY HE WILL STEP DOWN AT END OF HIS TERM (DECEMBER 31, 1979), AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS OF UNICEF SOON WILL COMPLETE THEIR CAREERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, UNICEF IS DEMONSTRATING IMPRESSIVE CAPACITY TO MOUNT MAJOR EFFECTIVE BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMS WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN POLITICAL CONTROVERSY AT EITHER THE NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. TIME IS NOW, OVER NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, FOR U.S. TO ASSERT EXPECTED LEADERSHIP ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND BY REPLACING LABOUISSSE WITH HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICAN. WITH CONTINUING POSITIVE USG ROLE AND IYC, US NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF COULD BE EXPECTED TO EXPAND CONSIDERABLY ITS GRASS ROOTS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT EARLY ATTENTION WOULD BE FOCUSED ON THESE QUESTIONS AND THAT U.S. WOULD FOLLOW-THROUGH WITH STRONGEST POSSIBLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNICEF FOR FY 1980. YOUNG

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